

By ALEX BANNISTER

Wycombe W....1, Bedford1
(Abandoned after 90 mins.)

BEDFORD Town and Wycombe Wanderers failed last night to break their F.A. Cup dead- lock.

Referee Arthur Dimond abandoned the second replay at Wycombe immediately after the start of extra time because he could not see the lines.

"It would have been grossly unfair to have carried on," he said.

Dimond's decision signalled another long-drawn-out contest: this time in the board-room between officials of amateurs Wycombe and Southern League Bedford as they argued about replay arrangements.

After 45 minutes they agreed that the match should be replayed at Bedford on Thursday.

Resolved

There were similar discussions after the first replay at Bedford last week, when the problem was finally resolved by the toss of a coin.

Because last night's match was not completed Wycombe claimed that Thursday's match should also be on their ground. Bedford disagreed and were prepared to ask the FA for a ruling.

The clubs eventually agreed and the teams, who have failed to produce a definite result in 300 minutes of the Cup football, now go to Bedford.

The rules of the competition state:

In the case of extra time in a replayed match not being completed and neither club being at fault, the match shall be replayed on a neutral ground unless otherwise mutually agreed by the competing clubs.

Both goals came in the first half. Bedford went ahead when Paton somehow managed to force the ball past four opponents before shooting against a post. Maskell dived but could only push the ball over the line.

Wycombe's quick equaliser came from Samuels, who headed through a Bates corner.

Wycombe Wanderers. — Maskell; Beck, Royston; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horsman, Merrick.

Bedford Town. — Collier; Morgan, Skinn; Willis, Collins, Cooley; Sturrock, Paton, Riley, Fogg, Benning.